Attorney Docket No.: 2003P01781WOUS

-7-

## **CLAIMS**

- [001] A dishwasher comprising at least one washing container for receiving items to be cleaned and a system for recognition of the fluid level of the rinsing fluid contained in the dishwasher, characterised in that at least one capacitive filling level sensor is provided whose electrical capacitance changes on contact with the rinsing fluid.
- [002] The dishwasher according to claim 1, wherein the electrical capacitance of the filling level sensor varies depending on the dielectric constant of the medium surrounding the filling level sensor.
- [003] The dishwasher according to any one of claims 1 or 2, wherein at least two filling level sensors are provided between which an electrical circuit preferably closes at low current as soon as the filling level sensors simultaneously come in contact with the rinsing fluid.
- [004] The dishwasher according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the system for recognition of filling level comprises electronic means which preferably qualitatively and quantitatively detect the electrical capacitance or the electrical conductivity of the filling level sensor and its variation.
- [005] The dishwasher according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the system for recognition of filling level comprises a number of capacitive filling level sensors which are preferably arranged at the height of specific fluid levels on the washing container.
- [006] The dishwasher according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least one filling level sensor is arranged ion the base assembly in such a manner that rinsing fluid that has flowed from the washing container into the base assembly can be detected.
- [007] The dishwasher according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the system for recognition of filling level comprises a filling level sensor by which means at least two different fluid levels can be determined.
- [008] The dishwasher according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the filling level sensor has an extended, preferably substantially rectangular shape.

Attorney Docket No.: 2003P01781WOUS

- 8 -

- [009] The dishwasher according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the filling level sensor is located inside the washing container preferably at a position protected from spray water.
- [010] The dishwasher according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein a fixing side of the filling level sensor is provided with a self-adhesive layer.